

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Commission Meeting Summary

by Bob Brendel

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission met Oct. 15 in St. Louis and heard a report on MoDOT's first employee engagement survey in four years.

Rudy Nickens, director of equal opportunity and diversity, told the commission: "The employee engagement survey is the voice of the people. From the survey, we learned we have some strengths to build on, but we have some work to do to get where we want to be as an organization."

He pointed out that despite major organizational changes, MoDOT employee satisfaction dipped only slightly since our last survey in 2010 (from 65 to 64 percent), and our efforts to live our values are working. Safety was the highest rated survey item. Diversity and employees building work skills and job knowledge were also rated at the top of all survey items. But Nickens said MoDOT still has work to do in building a more diverse workforce.

Not surprisingly, MoDOT employees are dissatisfied with little or no salary increases and limited promotional opportunities.

In the coming months, teams involving employees from across the organization will be formed to develop specific actions to improve MoDOT in four areas: salary and benefits, use of resources, promotion, and leadership and communication.

"We take the results of this survey seriously and realize we need employees' help to better understand the issues and develop solutions," said MoDOT Director Dave Nichols. "Most of these issues have no quick fixes. I hope employees will volunteer to participate. We can only move forward together."

Commissioner Gregg Smith said, "We look forward to the recommendations your four teams develop. We recognize how difficult the last few years have been, and without an answer to our funding dilemma, the next few years will be challenging as well. Our employees are resilient and dedicated, and the Commission is committed to their welfare."

Hazel Erby, chair of the St. Louis County Council, talked to the commission about the need for workforce diversity, career development and business support within the African-American community in St. Louis. She also presented specific project needs in the St. Louis area that would create jobs, rehabilitate the business corridor and enhance pedestrian and public transit.

"We are committed to doing all we can to ensure a diverse workforce on our projects," Commissioner Joe Carmichael said. "That's why we're proposing to raise our statewide DBE goal based on indications that the marketplace can provide that level of services."

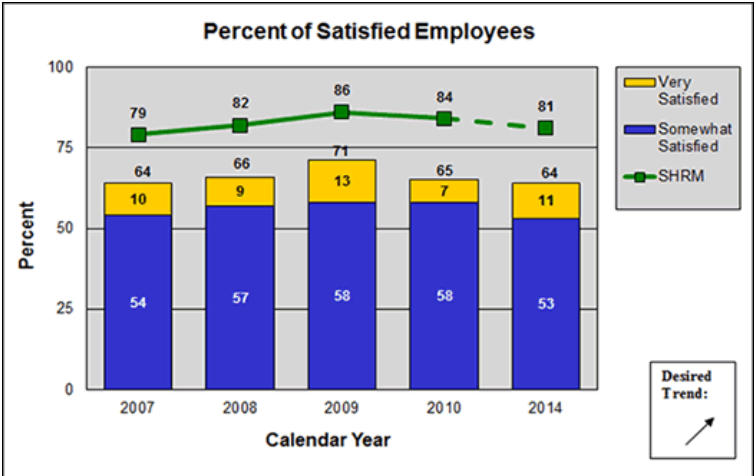
The commission also heard a presentation from Joe Reagan, president and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber, which hosted the commission meeting. He noted that the community's needs – jobs, economic development and access to education – center around transportation.

"We need to be bold about our vision, but we also need to be bold and transparent about funding for transportation," Reagan said. "We stand firm with you as we go back to the drawing board to find a funding solution."

In his report, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols discussed the department's recent completion of another phase of Route 364/Page Avenue in St. Charles County, and said that in another month or so, the entire project should be completed, extending Route 364 all the way to Interstate 64. The \$118 million project was made possible by cost-share agreements with St. Charles County and local communities. That program, however, stands in limbo because of MoDOT's diminishing funds situation.

Nichols and the commission also paid tribute to Josh Wiechens, a motorist assist operator in the St. Louis District. Last month he came upon a tractor-trailer on I-70 in St. Charles that was disabled on the shoulder and on fire. He helped the driver, who was overcome by smoke, to safety and medical attention and helped other first responders clear the incident.

The commission approved the results of the Sept. 19 bid opening, awarding contracts to the low bidders on 26 projects for which 100 bids were submitted. MoDOT's last letting of 2014 is scheduled for November 21. The biggest project awarded this month was for improvements on the U.S. Route 50 Whitton Expressway in Jefferson City. Emery Sapp & Sons of Columbia won the contract with a low bid of just under \$20 million.



Data for the benchmark, Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), was gathered from a 2014 SHRM report of an annual job satisfaction survey of 55 Fortune 500 companies conducted in 2013 (the 2014 number will be available early 2015). The dashed line between the 84 and 81 percent indicates a jump from 2010 to 2014, when no employee surveys were conducted during these years.

Nichols told commissioners that two St. Louis District employees, Resident Engineer Tim Hellebusch and Senior Construction Inspector Vince Kaimann will be honored next month with AASHTO's "Performance Excellence Award" for their efforts in raising the Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge over I-64 to eliminate clearance issues. The project was part of the I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge replacement.

He also said the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge is one of 10 finalists in AASHTO's America's Transportation Awards competition that will be announced next month. Also, a documentary produced by educational channel HEC-TV won a Mid-America Emmy Award last month. The program was titled "Bridge to the Future." KSDK-TV in St. Louis was also nominated for an Emmy for its documentary about the bridge, "Landmark of Legends."

Team Talk

Employees Needed for Diversity and Inclusion Council

by Roberta Broeker



Think about a time when you found yourself in a group of people and you thought to yourself, "I'm not sure I fit in here." Maybe it was the first day at a new job, or maybe you tried a new church one Sunday morning. Perhaps you were the woman at a meeting and everyone else was a man. Maybe you were the only person of color on a crew.

It's common to feel like the odd person out when you're in a new group of people. But I hope you soon get to know other people and start creating the bonds that help you feel like you're a part of the group.

In the work place, a sense of inclusion, of feeling like you're part of the group, is critical to success. People need to be comfortable presenting themselves as the person they really are. People shouldn't feel like they have to conform to a narrow definition of humanity to be successful, fit in, or be accepted and valued. That's why being inclusive is one of MoDOT's Values:

Be Inclusive

- *I embrace the diversity within my team.* I recognize the differences within my team make it stronger.
- *I consider other viewpoints in my decisions.* I seek out opinions that may differ from my own to make better decisions.
- *So we are more inclusive of others.* I work to make our agency a reflection of the diverse communities it serves.

It was last October when Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director Rudy Nickens and I convened a diversity and inclusion council and started to talk about how Team MoDOT could do more to develop and grow diversity and inclusion in our workforce. We scheduled a January meeting, but it was canceled and no subsequent meetings were held.

I would like to take another run at organizing a group of employees who care about this topic and want to work on it. Quite a few of the original group of 25 told me they'd like to continue, but some people have left the department, or their jobs have changed and they no longer have the time to commit to this effort. I am looking for about a half dozen people to round out the council. If you are interested, please fill out the attached application.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/InclusionCouncil>

The application explains the goals we want to achieve and the type of people we're looking for. Your information will route directly to the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division. If we have a lot of interest, we will choose among applicants to round out the council with a diverse group representing our various locations, jobs, etc.

So we can draw this to a close, I ask that if you are interested, you complete the application by Friday, Nov. 7. If you have any questions, you can call Rudy at 573-751-8602.

Thanks for all the good work you do at MoDOT, in all the many ways you serve. Stay safe. And GO ROYALS!

Medical Plan Policy Change

by Jeff Padgett

An important policy change for our medical plan is outlined below. This information is also being mailed to all plan subscribers.

On Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, a Jackson County Circuit Court Judge issued an order that found sections 451.022 and 104.012 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri and Article I, section 33 of the Missouri Constitution were unconstitutional. These laws prohibited Missouri's recognition of marriages of same-sex couples married in a state where same-sex marriage is lawful. On Monday, Oct. 6, 2014, the Missouri Attorney General's Office announced that the State of Missouri defendants would not appeal the order. Accordingly, the MoDOT/MSHP Medical and Life Insurance Plan will begin accepting enrollment of same-sex spouses with a valid marriage certificate.

Married same-sex couples will have a special qualifying event open enrollment period beginning Oct. 22, 2014 through Nov. 28, 2014 for coverage to begin Jan. 1, 2015. Such persons wanting to enroll during the special qualifying event open enrollment period will need to complete an enrollment form requesting to add their same-sex spouse. Eligible dependent children may also be added at this time. The Medical Insurance Enrollment Form A-570 is available on the

website at <http://www.modot.org/newsandinfo/benefitsforms.htm>.

In addition to a valid marriage certificate, one form of lawful presence for each new applicant must be provided. Examples of appropriate documentation would be (copies are acceptable as long as they are readable):

- U.S. Birth Certificate,
- U.S. Passport, U.S. Passport card,
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Certificate of Birth Abroad,
- Certificate of Naturalization,
- or Valid Lawful Permanent Resident Card.

All Enrollment Forms and supporting documentation must be received by close of business Friday, Nov. 28, 2014. Enrollment documentation may be mailed, faxed, e-mailed, or personally hand-delivered to:

Employee Benefits
105 W Capitol Ave, P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Fax: 573-522-1482
E-mail: Ashley.halford@modot.mo.gov

You can contact the Employee Benefits Office at 877-863-9406 with any additional questions you may have.



CONNECT WITH OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

?

MO EAC

EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL

“If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses.”

~ Henry Ford ~

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

Showcase Participants Push Best Practices to an All-Time High

by Jim Dickson



This snow plow stand is a 2014 award winner from the

Thanks to a good showing by districts and divisions at the Innovations Showcase in April, MoDOT’s Solutions at Work program has approved a record number of best practices. A total of 28 best practices have been added to the online database, which eclipses the previous high-water mark of 26 set in 2013. What’s more, for the third year in a row, every district and the Central Office had at least one best practice approved. The hotbed for innovation during the past year was the Central Office claiming a total of seven best practices.

Twelve of the best practices were statewide winners from the Innovations Challenge Showcase. Another sixteen of the participants from the showcase have been evaluated and approved as best practices by teams of district and division experts over the past five months. There are still 20 showcase innovations being further evaluated.

You can see photos and plans for all MoDOT best practices online at <http://wwwi/intranet/or/Solutions/solutionslist.htm>.

Southwest District.

This year's challenge is already underway. If you've found a way to do your work better, faster or cheaper, take a minute to complete the Innovations Challenge submission form at <http://wwwi/intranet/cr/SolutionsAtWork/Innovations.htm>.

Here's a breakdown of all 28 best practices approved so far this year.

- Aero Tarp Modification (Northeast District)
- Cable Conduit Quantity Worksheet (St. Louis District)
- Casing Advancer (Construction and Materials Division)
- Customer Contact Map (Customer Relations Division)
- Drag Chain Oiler (Kansas City District)
- Emergency Reference Marker on TIM (Northwest District)
- Engine Block Heater Controller (Central District)
- Fatality Messaging (Traffic and Highway Safety Division)
- Field Inspection Forms (Construction and Materials Division)
- GPS Pavement Markers (Northeast District)
- GroupCast (Central District)
- High Friction Surface Treatment (Central District)
- Inspection Tools (Central District)
- LED Panic Lights (St. Louis District)
- LiDAR Vertical Clearances (St. Louis District)
- Liquid Pelletized Lime (Southeast District)
- Maintenance SharePoint Site (Maintenance Division)
- Onyx Surface Treatment (Northeast District)
- Pipe Liner Winch (Southeast District)
- Pole Mounted Camera (Bridge Division)
- Porous Backfill (Southeast District)
- Raising Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard (St. Louis District)
- Rotational Development (St. Louis District)
- Safe and Sound Redeck Templates (Bridge Division)
- Snow Plow Stand (Southwest District)
- Tablets in Construction (Kansas City District)
- Tow Plow Salt Deflector (Kansas City District)
- Traffic Permitting Database (Traffic and Highway Safety Division)

MoDOT Allows Overweight Loads of Grain

Recent heavy rains are hampering farmers' efforts to harvest a bumper grain crop. As muddy fields dry, Missourians must race to draw grain from the fields and get it to market.

At the request of Richard Fordyce, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, MoDOT announced that Missouri grain haulers will be allowed to haul corn, soybeans and other grain crops at heavier than normal weights.

Private and for-hire motor carriers may carry up to 10 percent more than their licensed weight; however, the heavier loads are not allowed to use interstate highways.

Overweight permits are not required for these slightly overweight loads. All other traffic and motor carrier regulations that normally apply remain in place. This waiver is in effect immediately through midnight, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014. While the waiver is in effect, participating motor carriers are limited to:

- A loaded, gross weight no greater than ten percent (10%) above the gross licensed weight of the commercial motor vehicle
- Transportation only within the State of Missouri
- Drivers must obey all posted bridge weight limits
- When crossing a bridge, the driver must restrict the vehicle speed to no more than thirty miles per hour (30 mph) and must center the truck between two lanes of the bridge. The truck driver must yield to oncoming traffic, and
- Travel on highways other than Missouri interstate highways. No overweight travel is allowed on Missouri interstate highways.



All travelers are advised to visit the MoDOT Traveler Information Map at www.modot.org for up-to-date road closure information. For more information, call MoDOT Motor Carrier Services at 1-800-877-8499 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central time.

Don't Make a Rookie Mistake When Driving Around Big Rigs

by Kelly Jackson

We see it on our roadways every day - experienced and older drivers who have become complacent in their daily commute or weekly travel, zipping in and out of traffic and not thinking about the rules of sharing the road with big rigs. At up to 20 times the weight of a passenger vehicle, these big rigs can cause serious and often fatal injuries when involved in a crash.

With so many large trucks on our roadways it's imperative that drivers of passenger vehicles use extreme caution when maneuvering around those big rigs. Motorists are urged to share the road, respect each other, pay attention and avoid unsafe behavior that could result in a crash.

"Research indicates that drivers of passenger cars are responsible for 70 percent of the fatal crashes involving large trucks," said Dr. Leanna Depue, executive chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "In fact, the actions of the automobile driver are more than three times likely to contribute to a fatal crash than the actions of the truck driver."



Missouri statistics reveal that it's our older driver population that most often encounter collisions by underestimating size, distance and speed of big trucks. All motorists, even those who have been driving for years, need to always remember the following safety tips when

driving near a big truck:

- Stay out of the No Zone. Don't linger alongside a truck or bus - you could be driving the No-Zone.
- Stay visible! Never underestimate the size and speed of an approaching tractor-trailer.
- Don't tailgate a truck. The farther you are from a truck the less likely you will be involved in a collision.
- Don't speed. Obey all speed limits.
- Allow plenty of room. Large trucks need more room to make turns and maneuver in traffic.
- Use your headlights in inclement weather. Lights make cars more visible to truck drivers. A gray car against a gray highway on a gray, rainy day is hard to see.
- Buckle Up. Wearing your safety belt is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Looking for a Career in Public Affairs?

The University of Missouri is offering scholarships to provide opportunities for high potential mid-career state employees to attend their Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program.

The Fellowship covers in-state tuition for the 11 required MPA courses. Students can choose to complete the coursework for the MPA degree on site in Jefferson City or on-campus in Columbia.

Interested? Read More – [MPA Program](#)



Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's September meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [EAC Meeting Minutes September 2014](#) (*link works for employees only*). If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



Annual Art Competition

Young people throughout Missouri are invited to illustrate the competition aviation events of the 2015 FAI World Air Games in Dubai, UAE, in the 2015 International Aviation Art Contest.

Sponsored by several national and international organizations and supported by MoDOT, the contest inspires youth to explore aeronautics, engineering and science as they illustrate the theme, "World Air Games."

Children between the ages of 6 and 17 can participate. Entries are judged in three age classes for creative use of the theme. Entries from Missouri youth will be evaluated by MoDOT employees. The winners will advance to national and possible international levels of the contest.

All artwork for the state competition must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

Missouri students submitting artwork should mail to MoDOT, Attn: Teresa Hall, PO Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102. For more information, call (573) 751-2589, send an email to s.hall@modot.mo.gov or visit the national sponsor's site, <http://www.nasao.org/test/center/internationalaviationartcontest.aspx>.

Above, one of last year's winning entries by Sky Waters of Minnesota.

District/Office	Participants	Miles	Standings
Central District	35	6,661	7th
Central Office	92	15,300	2nd
Kansas City District	37	9,405	5th
Northeast District	18	3,927	8th
Northwest District	33	10,485	4th
Southeast District	55	9,004	6th
Southwest District	46	12,915	3rd
St. Louis District	50	19,079	1st
Total	366	86,776	

100 Mile Challenge Update

As of Oct. 13, MODOT has logged over 86,000 miles through the Governor's 100 Missouri Mile Challenge. The St. Louis district is currently in the lead. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. Here's how:

- 1. Visit <http://100missourimiles.com/> and create an account on any computer or device
- 2. Select the Groups tab at the top of the page
- 3. Under Find a Group select workplace
- 4. Enter "MoDOT" as the Keyword
- 5. Select your District or the Central Office team
- 6. Join the group and get active, then log your miles back on the website.

October Retirements

Allen Cockriel – NW – 10 years
Danny E. Gramenz – NW – 30 years
Anthony W. Morrall – NE – 30 years
David L. Deitch – KC – 23 years
John F. Ferrell – KC – 31 years

Stuart G. Stroud – KC – 14 years
Eric D. Deschamp – KC – 23 years
Debora S. Redel – CD – 8 years
Norma J. Snelling – CD – 22 years
John W. Tyler – SL – 14 years

Kevin G. Steiger – SL – 29 years
Sheldon C. Bennett – SL – 31 years
Caleb B. Alexander – SW – 16 years
Doug W. West – SW – 30 years
Dale R. Pliler – SW – 11 years

In Memoriam

Jack Jaegers
CO – September 23
Junior Millsap
former D8 – September 26
Thomas Krehmeier
former D8 – September 28

Michael Harris
former D3 – October 2
Robert Bassett
former D9 – October 3
Glendal Eaton
former D9 – October 5

John Kemmer
former D1 – October 5
Garry Henry
former D7 – October 7

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Central
Office

Home
Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Fun on the Charitable Campaign Trail



Executive Assistant Jenna Vaughan does the honors and shaves Mike Shea's head during an employee fall meeting. Mike was a good sport, keeping a smile on his face throughout the process.

The Maintenance Division rounded up a few brave men, Maintenance Liaison Engineer Mike Shea, Traffic Management and Operation Engineer Dan Smith and Sr. Systems Management Specialist Jeremy Hodges, who all volunteered to shave their heads for a charitable campaign fundraising event. The event was to honor Sr. Systems Management Specialist Cheri Middendorf, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer, by giving the proceeds to the Community Breast Care Center.

The idea was simple, set up money jars and have employees contribute to who they would most like to see with a shaved head. The person with the most money in their jar would end up with the least hair.

It was a stiff competition. Dan Smith and his wife, a breast cancer survivor herself, even hosted fundraisers with family and friends that netted \$680, which went directly into Mike Shea's jar, giving him the win.

The entire event raised \$735 for the Community Breast Care Center.



After the ceremonial shaving, Mike Shea and Cheri Middendorf were given do-rags sporting the Jayhawk's logo, one of Mike's favorite teams. Mike also was given two KC Royals hats to keep his new bald head warm.

The Design Division chose a bucket challenge for a charitable campaign fundraiser. The challenge raised \$300 for the

campaign. More campaign events are taking place throughout the Central Office, so be sure to participate.



Challenge participant State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter braves the cold water with a "thumbs up" as Sr. Historic Preservation Specialist Rusty Weisman dumps the ice water over his head.



Assistant State Design Engineer Nicole Hood takes one for the team from Design Liaison Engineer Jim Smith as Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager Gayle Unruh enjoys watching from a safe distance.



Design Division ice bucket challenge participants looking a little cold. From left to right - Division Administrative Support Supervisor Donna Roewe, Local Programs Administrator Kenny Voss, State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter, Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager Gayle Unruh, Assistant State Design Engineer Nicole Hood and Bid and Contract Service Engineer Jason Vanderfeltz.

Design Division Employee Receives Honor

by Bob Brendel

Jim Smith, a liaison engineer in the Design Division at Central Office, was recently inducted into the Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni (CEADA) at the University of Missouri. The ceremony took place October 10, at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia.

Smith, who graduated from MU in 1981, started at MoDOT soon thereafter and has held a variety of design positions for more than 30 years, split almost equally between the Central District and Central Office. He currently is the design liaison with MoDOT's Central and Northeast Districts and with the St. Louis District for projects in St. Charles County and North St. Louis County.

Other CEADA members who are active MoDOT employees include: Director Dave Nichols, Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, State Bridge Engineer Dennis



Jim Smith, design liaison engineer, is the most recent MoDOT employee to be recognized as a distinguished MU alumni.

Heckman, State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec, St. Louis District Engineer Greg Horn and Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough.

The CEADA was established at MU in 1998 to honor outstanding graduates and distinguished friends of the department.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

If the world suddenly seems awash in pink, that's because October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many people will wear pink and participate in events to recognize survivors of breast cancer, remember those who lost their battles, raise awareness about prevention and raise funds for breast cancer research.

Click on this month's [Coventry Wellness Newsletter](#) to find:

- Breast cancer prevention tips
- Symptoms of breast cancer
- Recipe for broccoli, garlic, and lemon penne pasta



Keeping Kids Safe for Halloween Fun

by Tim Taylor

Are your kids going out for trick or treat? Keep them safe by following these safety tips.

- Make sure your child's costume fits properly. A night of fun can be abruptly ended if they trip because their costume does not fit them properly.
- Make sure your child can see through their mask. Children will be crossing streets and walking up and down porch steps. Make sure they can see well enough through their mask to see oncoming cars and steps.
- Remind your children not to enter a home to receive candy. Your child should stay with the group and stay on the porch.
- Don't trick or treat at a home that does not have a well-lighted porch. Remind your child that not everyone gives out candy and going to a dark house can be very dangerous.
- Be sure your child can be seen by motorists. Carrying a flashlight helps your child to see and be seen. Placing reflective tape on their costume helps to make them more visible to drivers.
- Do not load or unload children on the traffic side of the vehicle. Many of us use our vehicles to drive our children around the neighborhoods. Remember kids are excited on Halloween, so be sure you only load and unload on the curb side of the vehicle. Make sure your child uses their seat belt - even if it is difficult with their costume.
- Take the time to check your child's candy before they eat it. Don't allow your child to eat any treats that have been unwrapped.
- Know where your child is going to trick or treat and set a curfew. Set boundaries where your child may trick or treat.
- Check and see who is outside before you open the door. Don't assume it's just more children at your door.



Don't allow young children to hand out candy without an adult present. An unattended child is an easy target for criminals. Make sure your door remains secured except when handing out treats.

Central Office Happenings



Mee Zone Event

Ellis Fischel Mammography Cancer Screening Mobile
Nov. 7, beginning at 8 a.m.
601 W Main St, Jefferson City

Breast cancer is the second most common newly diagnosed cancer and second leading cause of cancer death among women in the US. The key factor in fighting this disease is early detection.

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center from the University of Missouri Health Care is donating their time to our MoDOT female employees for preventative screenings. The screenings are open to all Central Office and Central District female employees. Most insurance companies cover one mammography screening a year, so check with your

provider.

There are 26 spots available and are open on a first come, first serve basis. To register contact Amanda Henley (573) 526-5617.

Note: Although this screening is for females only, males should also be checking for abnormal knots or thickening in the breast. Men are screened by diagnostic testing. Breast cancer in men is rare, but it does happen (about one percent of all breast cancer cases in the U.S.) Breast cancer screening is only recommended for some men at higher risk due to an inherited gene mutation or a strong family history.



Missouri State Employees Blood Drive

Friday, Oct. 24
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Governor's Office Building
200 Madison Street, Jefferson City

To sign up to donate make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: MoState.

Help make your donation experience as safe, successful and pleasant as possible by following a few recommendations before, during and after your blood donation. Click here for tips - [Giving Blood](#).

For additional questions, please contact Amanda Schlottach – amanda.schlottach@redcross.org

All donors will enjoy complimentary Papa John's pizza after their donation.

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



October 23, 2014

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

- Archives
- Print Page
- Print Entire Edition

Northwest District

Fall Meetings

The Northwest District wrapped up fall meetings last week. In total, meetings were held at six locations around the district: Chillicothe, St. Joseph RE office and maintenance facility, Bethany, Trenton, Maryville and the District Office.

District Engineer Don Wichern talked about the direction of the department, Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy went over the budget, Senior Human Resources Specialist Angela Downey updated employees on benefits, and Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Marty Liles discussed winter operations and the opportunities for employees to apply to the Maintenance Leadership Academy. Area Engineer Tonya Lohman and Construction Project Office Assistant Tammy Meneely coordinated the district's Charitable Campaign drive.

In addition, several outside presenters were invited to the meetings, Senior Environmental Specialist Ray Wood talked to the groups about the harmful chemicals in the products we all use every day in our jobs and how to dispose of them properly, the Missouri Department of Conservation spoke on the changes to regulations for the upcoming deer season, MPERS Senior Benefit Specialist Mariel Hale presented on retirement benefits and representatives from the two credit unions that were formerly associated with Districts One and Two were invited.



A full house at the Trenton Maintenance Facility listened as district leadership went over the state of the department and the Northwest District.



After reviewing some key points, District Engineer Don Wichern and Assistant District Engineer Tony McGaughy held a question and answer session with employees.



Senior Environmental Specialist Ray Wood talked with employee groups about the hazards found in the chemicals and products we use every day at work and how we can properly dispose of them.



MPERS Senior Benefit Specialist Mariel Hale went over how to calculate your projected retirement benefits.

Gear Up

Gear Up training continues in the Northwest District as we are gearing up our staffing for winter weather. Our October session saw new seasonal employees, new full-time employees and some employees that have been here for a while, but need some parts of the safety training to prep for snow removal.



Safety is the highest priority at MoDOT, so it's no surprise that it's covered every day of Gear Up. Here Senior Safety Officer Lee Bearce leads the Safety portion of the first day of training.



Human Resources Specialist Britney Richardson led the group in a humorous ice breaker, which included asking one table to answer the question: if you could be any animal, what you be and why. One new employee got a huge laugh when he answered "A pomeranian, because who doesn't love a pomeranian!"

Highway Patrol Blood Drive

Troop H of the Missouri State Highway Patrol is housed just across the highway from the Northwest District Office. Our proximity helps not only with our communication, but it allows us to share rooms and resources as well. Recently, the Patrol hosted a blood drive in our Northwest Conference Center. Folks were lined up at the door when it began and soon most of the donation stations were full.



There was a bit of a line when the blood drive got started and KQ2 reporter Carla Fields was also there to interview Sergeant Jake Angle about the drive.



Within just a few minutes of beginning most of the donation stations were filled.

Let's Go Royals

It's been 29 years since the western side of the state felt this much excitement in October and we're relishing every moment of it! Below is a photo of some of the District Office employees ready for Game 1. Now on to Game 2! Go Royals! Take The Crown!



For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23 , 2014

Northeast District

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives
Print Page
Print Entire Edition

Close Call Shakes Up Crew



Crews work with emergency responders and law enforcement to clean up a crash in a work zone on a rural road in northeast Missouri. No one was injured.

The two-lane rural road, Route NN in Clark County, has long sight distance. It's flat. It's straight. It has low traffic volume.

The MoDOT truck in the work zone had its lights and strobes on. Veteran crew worker Linley Lipper had shut off the loud diesel truck, so he could listen to a radio program while he and Kolt Kiger, a fairly new team member, were pothole patching along the road.

The man driving the pickup was going fishing, probably like he had done for many of his 80 years of life. He had his seat belt on and was driving about 55 mph. He just didn't see the work zone, plain and simple.

Thankfully, Linley saw him coming at them quickly. About 60 feet before impact, Linley yelled at the top of his lungs at Kolt, who saw what was happening and without a second to spare, jumped into the ditch.

"If that truck would have been on, I don't know if they would have heard the pickup approaching," said Maintenance Superintendent Ferdie Dames.

Ferdie prays for the safety of his crews every morning, he openly shares this at his employee fall meeting.

"I don't even want to think about what could have happened if just one thing would have been different at that time," Dames said. "The man's truck was totaled, but, thankfully, no one was hurt in the incident."

Linley and Kolt were pretty shaken up, as were their fellow crew members.

"We're so grateful they were watching out for each other and did what they were trained to do," he added.

Around the District...

October 8 was a beautiful day for a dinner cruise along the Mississippi River aboard the Mark Twain Riverboat, the site for the long-term service awards given to thirty-eight Northeast District employees. Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey was the guest speaker and thanked the employees for their leadership over the years, as well as, their families for allowing them to give time to MoDOT. A combined 850 years of service was represented by our long-term employees.



35 Years of Service: Mark Sprock is pictured with his wife Karen. 40 Year recipient Kurt Spindler is not pictured.



30 Years of Service: (pictured) Kenny Glover and Ervin Fackler III.



25 Years of Service: (pictured) Terry Hancock, Mary Wilson, Kevin Ross and Jason Miller. Not pictured are Mark Knickerbocker, Gary Peasel and Shannon Thompson.



20 Years of Service: (pictured) Tom Baker, Darin Biegel, Gene Boyles, Joe Collins, Tim Conover, Robert Deters, Mary Drennan, Erin Gruber, Tim Hays, Debbie Lipper, Linley Lipper, Billy Mallett, Debbie Malone, Erik Maninga, Bob Manzke, Randy Muck, Lonny Roberts, Dana Robinson, Holly Thronson, Matt Willing and Teri Zeiger. Not pictured are Simon Begley, Joe Kiser, Mike Laks, David Liebhart, and Rhonda Marsden.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Kansas City
District

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Water, Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Drink -- But Plenty of Brine for a Snow Fight

If you live in an arid place close to the ocean where fresh water is at a premium, you take a serious look at how to desalinate – take the salt out of the nearby sea water to make it drinkable.

And here in the Midwest, far from the oceans, we need to make a lot of salt water in a hurry from our abundant fresh water. Not for drinking or swimming, but when the snow flies, that salt water can make the highways safer sooner.

MoDOT's Kansas City District is the first in the state to employ a mobile brine maker. Delivered just after last season's snow, Kansas City District's maintenance team has spent the spring and summer preparing for its advantages by adding tanks throughout nine counties for an additional brine capacity of 120,000 gallons. While the trailer-mounted brine maker is based at the Independence maintenance facility, it can move to anyplace in the district at a moment's notice and produce 10,000 gallons of brine an hour. That's 10 times as fast as it took to make brine the old way.

"It's easier to make the brine, all automated controls," said District Maintenance Engineer Jesse Skinner. "It blends and mixes much easier." The old brine makers were much more difficult to operate, took several people to produce brine, clean out the unit and maintain.

"This is a self-cleaning unit, so our labor costs will decrease," Skinner said. "This unit can use any form of salt. The old units required more expensive salt with fewer impurities. This self-augers the impurities, and doesn't have to be scooped out with a shovel."

The stainless steel tank is engineered for the long haul. MoDOT expects to keep it working for many years with minimal maintenance. Skinner said that the unit's ability to blend other chemicals will maintain a consistency that ensures effectiveness at lower temperatures, another big advantage in a snow fight.

"Our first test run is to fill all the new brine tanks throughout the district, make sure we have all the right fittings and can hook up to water supplies with sufficient volume to make brine as quickly as the machine can produce it," Skinner said. That quickness and efficiency will deliver when it's crunch time.

"We now have capacity to fight back-to-back storms; before it would take us up to a couple of weeks to replenish our brine supply," Skinner said.

"I'm not eager to see it in action this snow season, but confident that we will put it to good use."

To see more photos of the mobile brine maker, [visit MoDOT Kansas City on Flickr](#).



How Do You Move a Bridge? One Piece at a Time

The two-lane Route 40 Bridge over the Blue River is transforming before our very eyes. On Tuesday, Oct. 22, crews carefully removed one of the two trusses from the 81-year-old bridge.

The removal took some doing though. Workers had to use acetylene torches and some good old-fashioned muscle to free the large structures from its pillared

perch. The process took more than three hours to accomplish.

It's all part of an effort to replace the bridge built in 1933. It is among 271 bridges in MoDOT's Kansas City District rated as poor. On Aug. 14, the bridge had to be closed after a regularly scheduled inspection revealed deterioration to the structure.



The bridge had been scheduled for closure and removal in January 2015 as part of the **I-70 Manchester Bridge replacement project**.

It's not a completely sad story. The trusses will be shipped to Grandview, Mo. where they'll be used for a pedestrian bridge at a city park.

District Taps into World Series Spirit

It's been nearly three decades in the making, and no matter the outcome, Kansas City is fully embracing the Kansas City Royals race to win the World Series. To celebrate, the Kansas City District employees hosted a Royals tailgate in the parking lot at the end of the day before Game 1. See all the photos from the tailgate on [the Kansas City District website](#). (Internal link.)



For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Central District

Johnson receives Arrive Alive Award

Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson received the Central Region Arrive Alive award from the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety during the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference recently held in St. Louis.

Johnson, the education and outreach coordinator for the MoDOT's Central District, was honored with the award for her efforts to organize safety programs and messages across mid-Missouri.

Retired St. James school teacher Maggie Roberts also received a Central Region award for her efforts in spreading highway safety messages in mid-Missouri.



Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson (left) poses with MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue after receiving an award during the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference held in St. Louis.

2014 Central District Fall Meetings



A representative from the Three Rivers Electric Cooperative demonstrates the dangers of electricity surging through overhead power lines during this year's employee fall meetings.

Central District Bridge Maintenance Superintendent Jim Hager participates in a Human Resources drill during the fall meetings.



MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger talks with employees near a plow truck on display during the employee meetings.

For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Customer Relations Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

St. Louis
District

October 23, 2014

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

St. Louis Motorist Assistant Operator is Honored for Saving a Life

by Shaunda White

What started out as a routine day was anything but for Motorist Assistance Operator Joshua Wiechens last month when he arrived on a scene to find an unconscious truck driver trapped between her vehicle and a concrete wall. Because of the quick actions he took that day, he was honored with the Meritorious Safety Award from the Highway Commission last week.

The truck driver was traveling on I-70 in St. Charles county that day when her tractor trailer engine ignited into a fire. The driver pulled over and made it out of the truck but was overcome with smoke inhalation and passed out.

Wiechens was the first on the scene and he quickly assessed the situation and called the TMC to dispatch EMS. He then picked the driver up off the ground and moved her to his truck and provided care until EMS arrived. Afterward, he set up traffic control for the emergency responders.

Wiechens stated that he was shocked when he received an award for simply doing his job.

“I did not do anything that another Motorist Assistant Operator would not have done. We are out there on the highways every day to help and serve the public. I did, however, find it very considerate for the Commission to present me with this award and I am truly honored,” said Wiechens.



Joshua Wiechens (in yellow) is honored by the Commissioners at the October Commission meeting in St. Louis.

Hospital Honors Employee for Promoting Healthier Lifestyles

by Shaunda White

Living a healthy lifestyle can be a challenge when being faced with many fast food choices, a lack of time for exercising and raising small children. Jennifer Riegel, a St. Louis senior design technician, refused to let any of those circumstances hinder her from converting to a healthier lifestyle. Because of her commitment, she was awarded the 2014 Healthy Woman Award from St. Luke’s Hospital.

The St. Luke’s Healthy Woman Award recognizes and celebrates women who not only take steps to improve their own health, but also inspire to better health in their community.

Riegel used a tragic event in her life as a catalyst to improve her health. After surviving a head on collision with a drunk driver, she was left with serious injuries and underwent multiple surgeries. Overweight and out of shape shortly after completing months of physical therapy, she pushed herself to lose 50 pounds the sensible way – exercising and eating right.



Jennifer Riegel (far left) was among four women to recieve the 2014 Healthy Woman Award from St. Luke's Hospital in October.

“Jennifer is an inspiration to all of us. Even though she still has pain from her accident, you would never know it when you see her. She is truly a success story of recovery and renewal,” said Debra Kohler, senior design technician and colleague that nominated Riegel for the award.

At work Riegel takes pride in assisting co-workers with developing personal fitness plans, finding healthy recipes, and exercising on breaks. She is also a certified group exercise instructor.

“Earning this award has really inspired me to keep going with what I truly believe in. I love my new lifestyle of staying healthy and keeping fit. I also love and will continue helping others reach their new lifestyle goals,” said Riegel.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Southwest
District

Southwest District at Work



CHECKING THE PAPERWORK – Branson Senior Construction Inspector Michael May looks over some paperwork with a contractor at a straightening project on Route 76 west of Branson. (Photo/David Mitchell)



ON THE AIR – Assistant District Engineer Dan Salisbury talks to Joplin radio personalities. The interview is part of a regular appearance on the station covering transportation issues in the district. (Photo/David Mitchell)

New Format, Flu Shots & Benefits Information Available at Employee Fair

by David Mitchell

District employees attended the annual Employee Fair in Springfield between October 21-23.

There was a change in format this year. Instead of sitting in one large room listening to all of the different speakers, employees moved from room to room in smaller groups to hear presenters on different topics.

This year's agenda was made up of four 50 minute sessions. One of those covered employee benefits.

"This is not an open enrollment year for our medical insurance," said Support Services Manager and fair coordinator Deborah Stuart, "but it is open enrollment for dental, vision, flexible medical and dependent care."

Other topics included deferred compensation, safety and wellness along with a presentation from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger also attended the Springfield meetings this year.



District Human Resources Manager Jaylyn O'Connor updates employees on equal opportunity policies. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Another change was all meetings were in Springfield.

Last year, some employees attended in Joplin and others in Clinton, depending on where in the district they were assigned to work.

“By bringing everyone to Springfield,” said Stuart, “our hope is that it will encourage some new interaction and working relationships within the district.

“I have purposely brought shops and offices together that probably haven’t seen each other before,” she said.

Many district workers got their annual flu shots and visited a number of booths with information about retirement and the charitable campaign as well as getting a new pair of boots at the Boot Mobile.



Springfield Senior Electrician Pat Turner gets a flu shot during the Employee Fair. Flu shots are free for employees who are on the MoDOT healthcare plan. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Groundbreaking Ceremony Signals Official Start of Design-Build Project

by Jennifer Williams

The official groundbreaking ceremony for Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville took place Thursday, Oct. 16, kicking off construction on the Southwest District’s Design-Build project to upgrade U.S. 60 through Rogersville to a freeway.

District Engineer, Becky Baltz, hosted the event with speakers including Robert Rademacher representing the Design-Build team of Ozark Regional Road Constructors, State Representative Lyndall Fraker, Greene County 2nd District Commissioner Roseann Bentley, Webster County Presiding Commissioner Paul Ipock, Rogersville Mayor Jack Cole and Vice Chair of the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission Joe Carmichael.

Also in attendance were representatives of Sen. Roy Blunt, Sen. Claire McCaskill, and Congressman Billy Long, along with local community and business leaders and members of the Young Women in Engineering outreach program at Logan-Rogersville High School.



Members of the Design-Build team for Project Freeway pose with students in the Young Women in Engineering outreach program at Logan-Rogersville High School. (Photo/Jennifer Williams)

“This is without a doubt the largest and most exciting project, and has the greatest potential of anything that has ever happened in the City of Rogersville,” said Mayor Cole. “I believe this will bring opportunities for economic development in terms of jobs and increased revenues for our existing businesses, as well as bring new businesses to the area.”

The project includes intersection improvements and the addition of turn lanes and interchanges along the corridor. The project budget is \$35 million and is scheduled for completion in December 2016.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

October 23, 2014

Southeast
District

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Employee Meetings, Health & Safety Fairs



(pictured) at Dexter.

The Southeast District recently wrapped up the fall 2014 employee meetings/Health and Safety Fairs after holding meetings at Willow Springs, Van Buren, Dexter and Perryville during the week of Oct. 6.

During the meetings, employees not only received an update on statewide news, they also had the opportunity to receive flu shots or health screenings. In addition, a number of booths were set up, such as: benefits, the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign, Coventry Health Care, Deferred Comp, EAEC, the Employee Association, Highway to Better Health, risk management, Share the Blessing, MO Voluntary Life Insurance and the Bootmobile.

Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey also stopped by to attend the SE District's employee meeting in Perryville.

Left: In addition to a number of informational booths, the SE EAC also had a few volunteers who took a pie in the face to promote the event and participation. Volunteers included: Project Manager Pete Berry at Willow Springs, District Health and Safety Manager Enos Criddle at Van Buren, Maintenance Superintendents Lawrence Schumer and John Tutt at Perryville, and Keith Gentry

Congrats to SE Coalition Award Winners Heath, Glenn

Four highway safety statewide award winners and 14 regional award winners were given recognition at the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference recently held in St. Louis. The conference is sponsored by the Missouri Coalition of Roadway Safety, whose goal is to reduce fatalities and disabling injuries on Missouri roads.

Each region selected an Arrive Alive Award recipient and a Show-Me Safety Award recipient. The Southeast Coalition Region winners are:

- Southeast Regional Coalition Arrive Alive Award winner is Trooper Cameron Heath, Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP). In Trooper Heath's three years with the MSHP, he has distinguished himself as a traffic safety advocate. Heath presents education programs on seat belt use and distracted driving to local schools and businesses. During 2013, Trooper Heath made 851 arrests and issued 1,097 warnings.



Of the 851 arrests made, 69 were driving while intoxicated arrests and 245 were seat belt arrests. He ranked number three out of 84 road officers in total contacts for Troop E.

- Southeast Regional Coalition Show-Me Safety Award winner is Courtnie Glenn, Wright County Health Department. Glenn emphasizes safety to people of all ages with her optimistic and approachable demeanor. She turns subjects such as texting and driving or wearing your seat belt into motivational conversations. From seat belts to teen drivers, motorcycle awareness to car seats, Glenn covers all aspects of driving. Her passion for her work is inspiring and her efforts are saving more Missouri lives.

Six organizations and individuals also received outstanding partner awards.



Top: Southeast Regional Coalition Arrive Alive Award winner Trooper Cameron Heath, Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP). Bottom: Southeast Regional Coalition Show-Me Safety Award winner Courtnie Glenn, Wright County Health Department.

Flooding Causes Erosion, Road Closures



KSPR was on the scene during the efforts to stabilize Route 14 and also assisted in getting the information out once the roadway was closed.

Recent rainy weather caused more than a few closed routes in the Southeast District. On Route 14 in Ava, the rain caused erosion that began to undermine the roadway.

The Ava maintenance crew worked through the rain to stabilize the edge of the roadway and surrounding soil. But with continued precipitation in the forecast, it became necessary to close the quarter-mile section of the roadway as a safety precaution on Oct. 10.

Once the heavy rain stopped, crews stabilized the area by placing additional rock and partially overlaying the roadway. By the evening of Oct. 16, the roadway was reopened.

In addition, motorists can expect to see more improvements in this area soon. In mid-November, MoDOT maintenance crews plan to add shoulders to the curved areas of Route 14 in Ava.

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

